

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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NEA

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Info

FROM: BEIRUT

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TO: Secretary of State

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 461; INFORMATION USUN NIACT 42.

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POLICY

RMR

TRUST NOT NECESSARY STRESS DELICACY OF ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS WE MAKE RE LEBANESE REGISTERED SHIP REPORTEDLY NAMED MARUCLA AND REPORTEDLY INTERCEPTED BY OUR NAVY.

LEBANON IS ONE ARAB COUNTRY WHOSE PUBLIC OPINION IS PREDOMINANTLY WITH US. OFFICIALLY PRESIDENT CHEHAB ONLY THIS MORNING CONFIRMED GOL DESIRE TO SUPPORT US ON CUBAN ISSUE (EMBTCL 459).

LEBS BASICALLY ARE OUR FRIENDS AND THEY BEING CRITICIZED FOR THIS. HOPE CASE CAN BE HANDLED SO AS NOT RPT NOT TO GIVE THEIR ENEMIES AND OURS AMMUNITION.

OUR INFO HERE SUGGESTS THAT SHIP IS PROBABLY OWNED BY COMPAGNIE DE NAVIGATION ARCUL OF PANAMA. SHIP WAS FORMERLY NAMED CITY OF SHREWBURY. LEBANESE REGISTRY IYKXONE* OF CONVENIENCE ACCORDING BEIRUT PORT CAPTAIN, THERE ARE ALMOST 200 SHIPS CARRYING LEB FLAG OF CONVENIENCE AND 90 PER CENT OF THEM ARE PANAMANIAN OWNED. HE SAYS MARUCULA MAY NEVER HAVE CALLED AT BEIRUT PORT. HOPE DEPARTMENT OR USUN WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE TOUCH WITH FONMIN TAKLA IN NEW YORK.

MEYER

MRJ

*AS RECEIVED

Note: Mr. Coen (NEA-DC) notified 10/26/62-5:45 pm. EH

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